

July 1, 2013

Commission For Women  
County of Los Angeles  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street, Room B-50  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Commissioners,

BreastfeedLA is pleased to provide a short summary of activities we have undertaken which positively impact the lives of women and girls in the County of Los Angeles. We are especially grateful to report that the past support of the LA County's, Commission for Women was instrumental in our success and wish to publicly express our gratitude, and humbly ask for continued support for our work.

BreastfeedLA's mission is to improve the health and well being of infants and families through education, outreach and advocacy to promote and support breastfeeding. Therefore, we are pleased to report the following activities:

#### **RENEW LA:**

This CDC funded collaboration with the LA County's Department of Public Health (DPH) allowed BreastfeedLA to provide technical assistance to the three County Hospitals, helping each of them to achieve the ***Baby-Friendly Hospital Designation***, a prestigious award of excellence in maternal-infant practices.

Also through this collaboration, BreastfeedLA provided assistance to the ***County's Department of Human Resources (DHR)*** in adopting and implementing a comprehensive, ***countywide*** Lactation Accommodation Policy and Program. LA County is the largest metropolitan county to take such a bold and affirmative position, making it a model employer and recipient of the 2012 Mother-Baby Friendly Workplace Award, from the California Breastfeeding Coalition.

In addition, BreastfeedLA provided assistance to the ***City of Los Angeles***, in their adoption of a ***citywide*** Lactation Accommodation Policy, as well as dedicated a mother's lounge at City Hall. The City of Los Angeles will be featured as a model employer by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health's resource database for implementation of the new Nursing Mother Breaks Federal Law.

Lastly, we provided assistance to ***Kaiser Permanente Southern California*** region, the largest private employer in the County, to adopt and implement a region wide lactation accommodation policy, which is further being adopted as a national tool kit for each Kaiser region for implementation purposes.

We are especially grateful for the Commission's support and advocacy of our work on RENEW LA. Your support was vital to the success in achieving these local, state and national distinctions.

#### **Target LA**

This First 5 LA funded policy initiative brings together public health officials, hospital administrators, and breastfeeding and quality improvement experts to discuss meaningful ways to create systems change and improve in-hospital breastfeeding policies and practices. The monthly ***Regional Hospital Breastfeeding Consortium*** (RHBC) meetings provide ongoing support and guidance for staff from participating hospitals. This consortium is co-hosted by *BreastfeedLA* and the *County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health*.

**BreastfeedLA Hospital Breastfeeding Summit 2012**

In October of 2012, BreastfeedLA held a hospital breastfeeding summit with approximately 80% of the 57 birthing hospitals in attendance. Dr. Jonathan Fielding, Director of Public Health and Health Officer gave the keynote address, "Making the Case for Breastfeeding Quality Improvement" which you may access at this link: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/docs/BreastfeedingKeynote.pdf>

**BEST Hospital & Clinics Project**

Collaborating again with DPH, through the CTG (Community Transformation Grant), the BEST Project engages hospitals and clinics within Los Angeles County to receive coaching and technical support to improve maternity care and pediatric practices that support breastfeeding. 16+ hospitals have been selected to participate in this project will be working to achieve Baby-Friendly designation, which will help in the intended goal of improving maternity care practices to support in-hospital exclusive breastfeeding.

**Breastfeeding Works**

Funded by First 5 LA, this policy advocacy project promotes the implementation of employee policies and programs to support lactation in the workplace. We are proud to announce that through advocacy and education, SB 2386 was passed, expanding protections for employed breastfeeding mothers, preventing sex discrimination under the State of California's Civil Rights law, the Fair Employment and Housing Act.

Based on our past success with the County of Los Angeles' DHR, we have revised our Lactation Accommodation Policy Tool Kit to reflect the updated changes to California law and are providing it to employers at no cost, through public promotion through our partnership with PIHRA (Professionals in Human Resources Association.) Further promotion of the County of Los Angeles, DHR policy and revised tool kit has taken place at the 2013 Women's Policy Summit and the upcoming, National Association of Commission for Women, 2013 annual conference at the end of July in San Jose.

**Breastfeeding Policy Roundtable 2013**

In collaboration with LA Best Babies Network, BreastfeedLA helped to organize and direct a comprehensive policy agenda meeting bringing together stakeholders to address barriers to breastfeeding in LA County. The 2011, [US Surgeon General's Call To Action To Support Breastfeeding](#) was the guiding framework for this policy agenda meeting, addressing 6 core areas of concerns; Mothers & Families, Communities, Healthcare, Employment, Research & Surveillance and Public Health. Again, Dr. Fielding was our keynote speaker, setting the groundwork for identifying breastfeeding support as a vital Public Health Issue.

Again, we thank the commission for their time and support and ask that they continue to support BreastfeedLA in advocating for breastfeeding families.

With kindest regards,

Genevieve Thomas Colvin, IBCLC  
Program Manager  
Worksite Lactation Accommodation  
BreastfeedLA